

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Smith Creek. This stream is listed on the 1996 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standards for Bacteria and the General Standard (Benthics). The Smith Creek stream segment is located in Rockingham and Shenandoah Counties. It is 31.18 miles in length and begins at the headwaters and continues to the confluence with the North Fork of the Shenandoah River.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

The final public meeting on the development of these TMDLs will be held on **Monday, March 15, 2004, 7:00 p.m.** at the Tenth Legion Ruritan Hall, Tenth Legion, VA. From I-81 take the Mauzy Exit. Take Rt. 11 N and turn right onto Mauzy-Athlone Rd. The Ruritan Hall is approximately ½ mile on the left.

A copy of the draft TMDL report addressing the Smith Creek impairments will be available for review on or before March 15, 2004 on the DEQ website at <http://www.deq.state.va.us/tmdl/tmdlrvpts.html>. The public comment period for the draft report and the meeting will end on April 14, 2004. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Robert Brent, Department of Environmental Quality, 4411 Early Road, PO Box 3000, Harrisonburg, VA 22801, telephone (540) 574-7848, fax (540) 574-7878, or e-mail rbrent@deq.state.va.us.